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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 08929 151920Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-02 SS-15 ICA-20
HEW-06 H-02 /064 W
----------106542 151922Z /46
P 151820Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2795

UNCLAS ROME 8929

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: VISIT OF US DELEGATION TO MORO MEMORIAL MASS

1. BRIEF VISIT TO ROME ON MAY 13 OF US DELEGATION TO MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ALDO MORO WENT SMOOTHLY IN RESTRAINED ATMOSPHERE IN KEEPING WITH SOLEMNITY OF THE OCCASION. DELEGATION LED BY HEW SECRETARY CALIFANO INCLUDED SENATOR PETE V. DOMENICI OF NEW MEXICO AND REPRESENTATIVE FRANK ANNUNZIO OF ILLINOIS AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR GARDNER.

2. ONLY EVENT SCHEDULED WAS MEMORIAL MASS HELD IN BASILICA OF ST. JOHN LATERAN. POPE PAUL'S PRESENCE AT SERVICE MARKED FIRST TIME IN MODERN HISTORY THAT POPE ATTENDED FUNERAL MASS OUTSIDE ST. PETER'S AND FIRST TIME HE ATTENDED SUCH MASS IN MEMORY OF A LAYMAN. ALL IMPORTANT GOI FIGURES AND PARTY AND PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS WERE PRESENT AS WERE FOREIGN LEADERS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS OF BELGIUM, PRIME MINISTER THORN OF LUXEMBOURG, EEC PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS, AND SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND EX-MINISTERS. WHILE MORO'S WIFE AND CHILDREN CONTINUED IN THEIR REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN STATE SERVICES, HIS BROTHER AND SISTER AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS DID ATTEND. MOST MOVING MOMENTS WERE THOSE IN WHICH POPE SPOKE INDIVIDUALLY TO THEM AND TO MEMBERS OF FAMILIES OF POLICE BODYGUARD SLAIN ON DAY OF MORO KIDNAPPING.
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3. TV AND ALL NEWSPAPERS NOTED PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION. SEVERAL ALSO NOTED THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MASS (IN TAKING COMMUNION) AND THEIR ITALIAN HERITAGE. IL TEMPO, IL POPOLO, AND IL GIORNO CARRIED TEXTS OF SECRETARY CALIFANO'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

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4. EMBASSY IS GRATEFUL FOR WILLINGNESS OF MEMBERS OF
DELEGATION TO COME AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE AND FOR DEPARTMENT'S
EFFORTS IN ARRANGING VISIT. WE BELIEVE THAT RESTRAINED
AND DIGNIFIED PARTICIPATION OF US DELEGATION AT MEMORIAL MASS
STRUCK RIGHT NOTE AND WAS DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY ITALIANS
AT THIS DIFFICULT MOMENT IN THEIR HISTORY.GARDNER

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** INTERMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
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**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 15 may 1978
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Action:** n/a
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
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**Disposition Comment:**
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**Disposition Event:**
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**TAGS:** OVIP, PINT, IT, US
**To:** STATE
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